

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05

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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2147

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY REYKJVAIK

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0247

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD MAY 16-22

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE FIRST INFORMAL SESSION OF THE
CURRENT ROUND OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS
TOOK PLACE MAY 17. IN IT, EASTERN REPS SAID THAT WESTERN
REFUSAL TO AGREE TO THE SIMULTANEOUS TABLING OF NATIONAL
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MILITARY MANPOWER FIGURES FOR EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT WAS
AN OBSTACLE TO THE FURTHER ANALYSIS OF DATA ALREADY PRESENTED
BY EAST AND WEST. WESTERN REPS REJECTED THIS CHARGE,
NOTED THEIR OWN PROPOSAL TO MOVE TO A CONSIDERATION OF
FIGURES FOR US AND SOVIET FORCES IN THE AREA AND SAID
THEIR AUTHORITIES WERE CONSIDERING HOW BEST TO PROCEED
IN THE LIGHT OF THE DIFFERENT VIEWS OF EAST AND WEST AS

TO WHAT THE NEXT STEP IN THE DATA DISCUSSION SHOULD BE
END SUMMARY.

2. IN THE MAY 17 INFORMAL SESSION, THE FIRST OF THE TWELFTH ROUND OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS, EASTERN REPS SAID DATA TABLED BY BOTH SIDES SHOWED THAT THERE WAS APPROXIMATE PARITY BETWEEN NATO AND WARSAW PACT FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND THAT WESTERN ESTIMATES OF PACT FORCES TO THE CONTRARY WERE WRONG. THEY TERMED WESTERN REFUSAL TO ACCEPT THE EASTERN PROPOSAL FOR THE SIMULTANEOUS INTRODUCTION OF SEPARATE MILITARY MANPOWER TOTALS FOR EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT AN ARTIFICIAL OBSTACLE TO FURTHER DATA ANALYSIS. EASTERN REPS CONFIRMED THEIR READINESS TO CONTINUE TO DISCUSS DATA, BUT SAID THE WEST SHOULD RECONSIDER THE FALLACIOUS BASIS OF ITS ESTIMATES OF WARSAW PACT PERSONNEL STRENGTH. WESTERN REPS REJECTED THE CHARGE THAT THE WEST WAS BLOCKING THE DATA DISCUSSION, REAFFIRMED THEIR CONVICTION THAT IT MUST BE PURSUED IN ORDER TO RESOLVE DISCREPANCIES AND ESTABLISH AGREED FIGURES FOR COMPUTING REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS AND POSED ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING EASTERN DATA. THEY NOTED THE WEST PROPOSAL TO TABLE DATA ON US AND SOVIET FORCES IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS AND THE EASTERN ONE TO TABLE FIGURES FOR EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT AND SAID THAT WESTERN AUTHORITIES WERE CONSIDERING HOW BEST TO PROCEED IN THE LIGHT OF THESE TWO PROPOSALS.

3. DURING THE BALANCE OF THE MAY 17 INFORMAL SESSION, EASTERN REPS PRESSED THE MERITS OF THEIR PROPOSAL THAT DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AGREE NOT TO INCREASE THE NUMERICAL

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STRENGTH OF THEIR ARMED FORCES IN THE REDUCTION AREA FOR THE DURATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THEY REFERRED TO THE CONCEPT OF CARRYING OUT REDUCTIONS IN TWO STAGES, WITH FIRST-STAGE REDUCTIONS CONFINED TO US AND SOVIET FORCES, AND WESTERN RECOGNITION OF THE NEED TO COVER NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS IN AN AGREEMENT AS CONSTITUTING A SMALL AREA OF COMMON UNDERSTANDING. EASTERN REPS CITED COLLECTIVE CEILINGS, THE FAILURE TO PROVIDE IN PRINCIPLE FOR THE REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS AND THE UNWILLINGNESS OF WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND CANADA TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO REDUCE THEIR FORCES IN A SECOND STAGE AS EXAMPLES OF ELEMENTS OF THE WESTERN POSITION WHICH FRUSTRATED PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. WESTERN REPS REVIEWED THEIR REASONS FOR PROPOSING COLLECTIVE MANPOWER CEILINGS ON NATO AND WARSAW PACT MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE AREA WITH SUBCEILINGS ON US AND SOVIET FORCES. THEY EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WEST'S DECEMBER 1975 ADDITION TO ITS REDUCTION APPROACH AND MADE THE POINT THAT THE EAST HAD SO FAR FAILED TO RESPOND SERIOUSLY TO THAT WESTERN INITIATIVE.

4. HUNGARIAN REP FODOR MADE THE ONLY STATEMENT AT THE MAY 20 PLENARY MEETING. HE SAID THAT IN THE COMPROMISE EASTERN PROPOSAL OF FEBRUARY 1976 AND THE TABLING OF EASTERN DATA THE FOLLOWING JUNE HAD ESTABLISHED THE BASIS FOR WORKING OUT A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE FIRST AGREEMENT. FODOR PLACED THE BLAME FOR THE ABSENCE OF FORWARD MOVEMENT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON INFLEXIBLE WESTERN ADHERENCE TO A POSITION PREMISED ON THE DEMONSTRABLY ERRONEOUS THESIS OF FORCE DISPARITIES. HE CRITICIZED WESTERN PARTICIPANTS FOR CONTINUING TO BUILDUP THEIR FORCES QUALATATIVELY AS WELL AS QUANTITATIVELY. FODOR REFERRED TO DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE RECENT NATO MEETING IN LONDON AND THE WESTERN REFUSAL TO AGREE TO AN IMMEDIATE MANPOWER FREEZE IN CENTRAL EUROPE AS INDICATING THAT WESTERN INTEREST IN INCREASING NATO FORCES WAS GREATER THAN IN NEGOTIATING THEIR REDUCTION AND LIMITATIONS. RESOR

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